

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 9 and 10 on Wednesday, January 10, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on Roll Call votes 9 and 10.

SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF IRAN TO FREE EXPRESSION

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 676.

H. Res. 676 supports the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemns the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and displays American support for peaceful Iranian protestors. H. Res. 676 recognizes the rights of Iranians to peaceful forms of free expression.

On December 28, 2017, Iranians in the city of Mashad began protesting against the Iranian regime. The protestors expressed economic grievances, frustrations over widespread corruption, and disapproval of the regime's destabilizing support for terrorist groups. This message held sway with many Iranians and protests swiftly spread across the country. The Iranian regime has responded harshly to these protests. The regime has shut down mobile internet access and blocked and pressured companies to cut off social media applications that activists use to publicize protests. Consequently, H. Res. 676 provides Congress authority to license the provision of communications technology to Iran so that people can continue to express themselves freely. The Iranian regime has also engaged in a series of significant human rights abuses and major corruption cases. The Department of State strongly rebukes the Iranian regime's arrest of peaceful protestors, significant corruption, and destabilizing activities abroad. H. Res. 676 gives Congress the authority to designate and sanction elements of the Iranian regime involved in these abuses.

This legislation is important for the United States because it emphasizes to Americans and citizens around the world that America is not afraid to stand up to defend the principles upon which our country was formed.

I've long been a proponent of encouraging free and fair democracies and condemned authoritarianism abroad. As a member of the Judiciary committee, I have spent my tenure in Congress fighting for human and civil rights. Standing up for the rights of all people is of

the utmost importance to me. Thus, it is with great pride that I support H. Res. 676 and urge my fellow members to do the same.

HUD AFFH RULE CHANGE

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2018

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that it would effectively delay until 2025 the implementation of the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule that will help communities finally realize the goals of the Fair Housing Act.

This year is the 50th anniversary of that landmark law, which prohibits housing discrimination, and the AFFH rule aims to ensure our communities have the tools necessary to comply with it. Despite the law's passage 50 years ago, segregation still plagues our communities, resulting in grave inequities in all aspects of life. This is unacceptable.

In 2015, after years of public input, the Obama administration finalized the rule, taking the first meaningful steps to empower communities to develop solutions that better address the housing needs of all of their residents.

The AFFH rule reaffirms the strongly held American belief that your zip code should not determine your access to opportunity. But by delaying the rule, HUD is making it clear that equity and fair housing is not a priority of this administration.

Housing equity is not a choice—it's the law.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES GANDY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary work of Mr. James Gandy and congratulate him on his retirement. Mr. Gandy has served as the President of the Frisco Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) for 22 years, and in that time, has witnessed firsthand the economic boom that transformed Frisco from a small farm town to the economic hub it is today.

During his tenure, the FEDC facilitated more than 345 projects with an economic impact of \$31.1 billion to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan area. As a result of his work, more than 27,000 direct on-site jobs have been created, amounting to one fifth of the jobs in Frisco today. Mr. Gandy played a key role in bringing the Stonebriar Centre Mall and globally recognized brands—including the Dallas Cowboys—to this once-small town. As a direct result of the completion of these projects, Frisco is the proud host to more than 6 million visitors per year.

Mr. Gandy's record of achievement does not stop there. This Frisco community leader was integral to forging public-private partnerships to create sports and entertainment venues, including the Ford Center at the Star, the Dr. Pepper Ballpark and Arena, the Toyota Stadium, and the Frisco Superdome.

As a result of his hard work, Mr. Gandy has received attention not only at the local level, but also from around our state. Under his leadership, the FEDC was awarded the 2017 Economic Development Leadership/Innovation award from the North Texas Chapter of CoreNet Global. The Dallas Business Journal, in the year 2012 and 2015, ranked the FEDC as number one among North Texas economic development agencies, and the FEDC was recognized as high performing in both 2013 and 2016 by Atlas Advertising.

He is truly an exemplary North Texas leader. Before serving on the FEDC, Mr. Gandy served on the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce as the Director of Economic Development for the City of Seguin, and as the President of the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce.

It is clear that Mr. Gandy has worked tirelessly to bolster the Frisco economy. Under his leadership at FEDC, the City of Frisco has seen an increase of the tax base of 38 times what it was when he took office. On behalf of the citizens and businesses of Frisco, I want to thank James Gandy for the unparalleled impact he has made on the city and wish him a very happy retirement.

SECURING DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FIREARMS ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4433.

H.R. 4433, the Securing DHS Firearms Act of 2017, makes the Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) responsible for the security of sensitive assets, such as badges, firearms, or other weapons.

This legislation directs the DHS's Under Secretary to create and disseminate a directive. This directive should designate which assets should be classified as sensitive, the requirements for securing and safeguarding sensitive assets, and the methods to record and report lost assets. H.R. 4433 also directs the Under Secretary to revise the Personal Property Asset Management Program Manual, which contains the procedures and trainings for safeguarding sensitive assets, guides for recording lost assets, and requirements that a lost asset file contain both a DHS report and a corresponding police report.

H.R. 4433 is vital to safeguard sensitive assets that could result in loss of life and significant mission derailment if lost. From 2014 to

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